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26 November 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIA
SUBJECT: Interdepartmental Coordinating Group
meeting, Wednesday, 24 November 1948

I. The following individuals attended the Interdepartmental Coordinating Group meeting at 3:00 p.m. on 24 November, in Room 4166, New State Building:

Chairman - Mr. Howland Sergeant, Deputy Assistant,
Secretary of State
Mr. King - Army
Mr. Worth - Navy
Colonel High - Air Force (for Mr. Brent)
25X1 [redacted] - CIA (for General Wright)

Mr. William Stone - State
Mr. Frederick Oechsner - State (Chairman of
the Interdepartmental Coordinating Staff)
Captain F. Goodwin - Navy
Lt. Col. W. Kinard - Army
[redacted] - CIA

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II. The agenda for the meeting was divided into five sections:

I. Discussion of coordination within Missions under NSC-1
(Note of Attaches) Captain Goodwin, Colonel Kinard

At Mr. Oechsner's suggestion, Colonel Kinard gave a quick picture of Army efforts to coordinate the work of the Military Attachés and the USIB. Mr. Oechsner added, "We have circularised the USIB regarding NSC 4." In rather pompous fashion, Mr. Worth said he was uttering the official Navy point of view, which was that the Naval Attachés were assigned to the Department of State and should be recognized as on the staffs of the heads of missions. Captain Goodwin stated that the Navy had

OSD & DOS review(s) completed.

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suggested that a letter should go to the military services and to CIA requesting them to have their attaches collaborate with the USIA, or that letters should be sent from Mr. Allen, the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, direct to the chiefs of missions. It was agreed that letters of both types would probably be used.

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2. Report on IIC session with U. S. Advisory Commission on Information - Mr. Oechsner

Mr. Oechsner briefed the meeting regarding a session that he had attended a few days previously with the President's Information Policy Commission. This Commission is set up under the Smith-Mundt Act to make reports every three months to the Secretary of State and twice a year to the Congress. Mr. Sergeant stated that the Commission is very well briefed on what goes on in the Department of State, and that they keep very current by their monthly meetings, as well as the interim knowledge they receive on pertinent activities. Mr. Worth stated that he would like to see the reports which the Information Policy Commission would make to the Secretary. Messrs. Sergeant and Stone said that reports will be available.

3. Report on status of NSC paper on psychological warfare Planning - Mr. Stone

Mr. Stone reported that the NSC paper will go to the NSC Consultative Group next Tuesday, 30 November 1948, and it is anticipated that with quick action the paper will be ready for placement on the agenda for the National Security Council in the near future. He added that if this is approved, the SANACC Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations would go out of existence. Mr. Worth stated that he saw the paper on the day previous to our meeting, and that he worried about the tie-in of foreign propaganda with domestic information. Mr. Stone agreed with Mr. Worth's apprehension, and said the only reason State let the paper stand as presented was on the basis that the Planning Group might initially, while taking a panoramic look at the information problem, examine the whole problem, foreign and domestic, but State is firmly against the two fields of endeavor being tied together organizationally.

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4. State Department provision for information policy guidance -
Mr. Stone

Mr. Stone informed the meeting that the Information Policy Commission had spent much of its time on the problem of policy guidance for information. Though they are able to call on regional specialists in various parts of the Department of State for suggestions, it was freely admitted that this whole endeavor needs much coordination to bring about the desired results. As a pilot effort in this direction, Mr. Oechsner said that he soon expected the European Area of POS (Public Affairs Overseas Program Staff) to furnish him with the information policy objectives for the European countries. Then Mr. Oechsner hopes to be able to conduct the necessary analyses and paper plans to attain these objectives in accordance with the priorities established. He added that liaison with POS is not working well and that planning within POS is not yet properly developed. At this point, Mr. Worth made some general comments, concluding with the idea that perhaps it might be beneficial to support a Psychological Warfare Planning Group outside of the Department of State. He said that it sometimes happens that such outside groups get the information they want better than those within the Department. No one supported his view.

5. Any further matters pertaining to current activities and
projects of ICS

Referring to paragraph 9 in NSC 4, Mr. Stone said it might be advisable to get the estimates of the Departments and Agencies to do the whole information job. Mr. Stone said he was thinking, primarily, of what might be required organizationally for a transitional period. Mr. Worth said there will be no "such period the next time." Mr. Worth said that there was a serious question involved in the Department of State carrying on the operations mentioned in NSC 4, under the authority of Public Law 402, and that regardless of Congressional intent when the Law was passed, new members on the Appropriations Committee might look at the matter differently, and so also might the Comptroller General. From the way Mr. Worth spoke, I am inclined to feel that he has a very close working relationship in the Navy with Commander Knoll. Everyone agreed, including Mr. Stone himself, that the question he raised regarding budgetary support needed more time for complete evaluation than the group were able to give it at the tail-end of the meeting that day. Accordingly, I believe that this subject will probably be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Group.

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24 November 1948

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